

BOOK REVIEWS

THE 1946 YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL MEDICINE. Edited by George F. Dick, M.D.; J. Burns Amberson, M.D.; George R. Minot, M.D., S.D., F.R.C.P.; William B. Castle, M.D., S.M.; William D. Stroud, M.D., and George B. Eusterman, M.D. The Year Book Publishers, Chicago. Price \$3.75.

This handy pocket-sized volume contains 772 pages with good-sized print. It has a jacket upon which is printed 20 questions, given as a quiz, to stir the interest in the contents on general medicine. This yearly brief summary of important advances has been continuous since 1900.

Various professors of medical specialties have been chosen to edit the several departments of this year book. These departments are divided into (1) Infectious Diseases by George F. Dick, M.D., (2) Diseases of the Chest by J. Burns Amberson, M.D., (3) Diseases of the Blood and Blood Forming Organs; Diseases of the Kidneys, by George R. Minot, M.D., and William B. Castle, M.D., (4) Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels by William D. Stroud, M.D., (5) Diseases of the Digestive System and Metabolism by George B. Eusterman, M.D. Brief summaries of important advances in these fields are given. After many of the articles, the editors have commented and thus have brought the subject matter to date. Few charts and plates appear in the volume. A good informal photograph of the late Sir Thomas Lewis appears at the beginning of the Cardiac section.

The various departments have been well reviewed, and included are theoretical and practical discussions on sulfonamides, penicillin, streptomycin, folic acid, insulins, proteins and amino-acids, Rh factors, vitamins, etc., etc. It should be noted that Endocrinological Diseases are not especially reviewed in General Medicine, as a year book on Endocrinology is regularly published.

This review of General Medicine is admirably done. The editors have brought before their readers important new data, and the comments have kept the subjects alive and up-to-date. This review should be an integral part of the working library of both general practitioners and specialists in the field of medicine.

THE EYE MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASES. By I. S. Tassman, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Attending Surgeon, Wills Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa. With 243 illustrations including 24 in color. Second Edition, 1946. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis.

This book begins with the worthy presumption that ophthalmology should be considered as a branch of internal medicine and with the worthy purpose of bridging the gap which exists between the ophthalmic and the other medical aspects of internal diseases. It is regrettable that a book planned to fill such a need should be so unsatisfactory. As the book is surveyed it is seen as essentially a textbook on the eye arranged according to internal diseases. The descriptions of internal diseases allegedly follow Meakins' Practice of Medicine but the condensations are done inadequately, so that they give too little either to the internist or to the student of ophthalmology. Collaboration with an internist could have greatly improved this part of the book, which is quite a large part, and given better balance to the whole. In some conditions the eye descriptions are auxiliary to those of the constitutional disease; in others the emphasis is reversed.

The index is good and helps equip the book as a compendium for reference, but the bibliography could be more complete and more up to date.

There is considerable emphasis and detail given to minor

or rare conditions and too little to certain important and common ones. For instance, the entire subject of hypertension, including malignant hypertension, is covered in less than one and one-half pages of text and one black and white print. Arteriosclerosis is given two and one-half pages. On the other hand five and one-half pages are devoted to toxoplasmic encephalomyelitis.

The color photographs are good, but too few, and are usually wasted at the rate of one small print to a full page. The black and white prints are not uniformly clear. They are present in great number—and not always with apparent reason. Some would be more appropriate in a text on diseases of the skin rather than of the eye. Others are out of place: Fig. 103, a fundus demonstrating tuberculous sclerosis, stares from page 236. The discussion of this subject begins on page 240 and is accompanied by two other figures. Meanwhile, the intervening pages are occupied by the text of two other conditions and prints of three. This sort of thing is confusing.

The discussions on treatment do not acknowledge the existence of penicillin, and comment on the sulfonamides is in a fashion better befitting 1938 than 1946. The comparatively few references to chemotherapy repeatedly recommend sulfanilamide, which, in general, has been discarded in favor of more effective and safer derivatives.

The final criticism is directed to a fault found all too frequently in modern American medical books, the inconstancy of the style and the English grammar.

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY. Volume 1, 1943, Volume 2, 1944, Volume 3, 1945. Washington Institute of Medicine, 1720 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

This collection of reviews embraces the quarterly publications of the Review of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the years 1943-45, inclusive. The publication is well edited, and the individual reviews convey the content of the various articles with considerable fidelity and without becoming stereotyped. The field seems to be very well covered, and in view of the fact that this covers war years, it is a considerable achievement. As one might expect, the foreign journals are notably lacking, with the exception of those from South America. This deficit will undoubtedly be rectified as the journals from other countries become available.

The publication is well printed; the paper is good and the binding is very satisfactory.

This presentation of the Quarterly Review of Obstetrics and Gynecology forms a valuable addition to any medical library.

SIR W. ARBUTHNOT, His Life and Work. By W. E. Tanner, M.S., F.R.C.S. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. 1946. Price \$4.50.

This is a rambling anecdotal biography written by a devoted disciple with a somewhat reverential appraisal of an admittedly very clever pioneer in surgery, many of whose contentions concerning intestinal stasis (to which subject he contributed almost a hundred articles) have not stood the test of time nor of more scientific study. However, one cannot but admire and marvel at the many-faceted character of this brilliant though sometimes erratic artist in surgery, whose Lane plates, "non-touch" method of operating for fractures, operation for lateral sinus thrombosis, administration of salt solution during operation, resection of rib for empyema, closure of cleft palate, and total colectomy blazed trails for lesser Galens to follow and later to modify or discard as newer concepts